

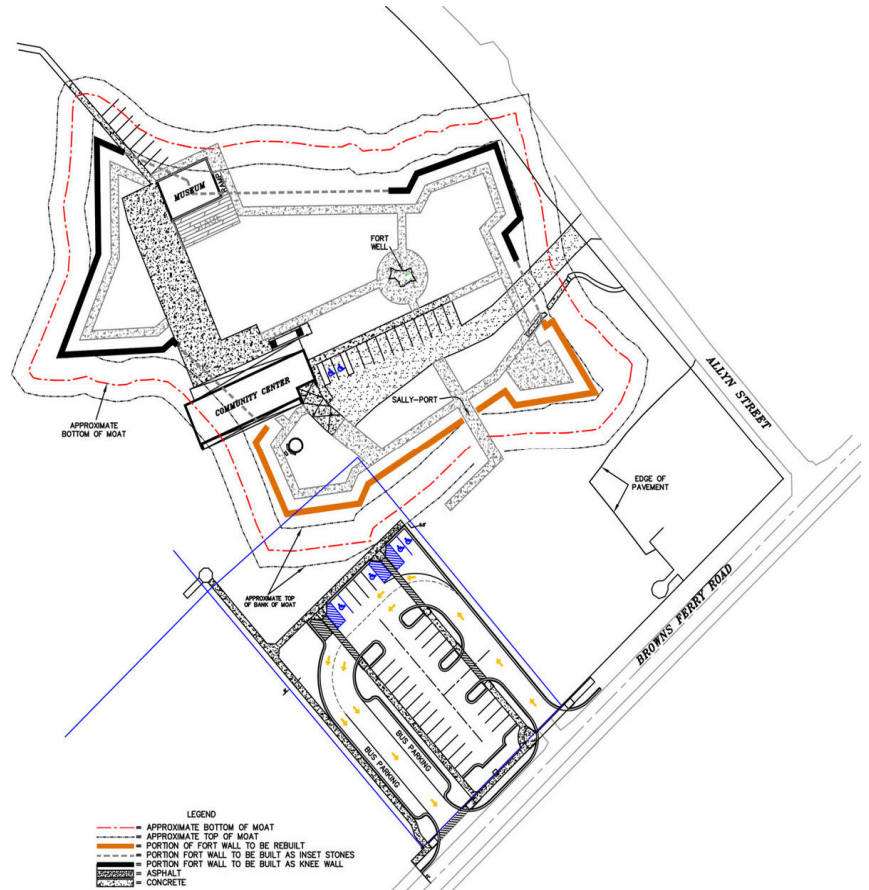
Trinity – Fort Henderson

Fort Henderson was built in 1863 by federal forces occupying Athens. The fort, situated on Coleman Hill, was a five-sided earthen fort with some frame buildings and underground bomb-proofs. Abatis lined the 15-foot deep perimeter ditch, a small portion of which is still visible. On September 24, 1864, after a brief fight and a clever ruse orchestrated by Confederate Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, the fort and its 900-man garrison of mostly the 110 U.S. colored infantry were surrendered. After moving the prisoners and captured supplies South, Forrest's campaign followed the railroad North to the Union fort at Sulphur Creek Trestle which he took the following day. Federals re-occupied Athens shortly after Forrest's departure.

The site became the location of Trinity School, the first black school in Limestone County. It opened in 1866 and closed in 1970.

Today the Fort and school property is being restored in part to tell the story of both. The community center has been built and work is now underway on the partial restoration of the fort perimeter. There is a planned museum at the site.

On Friday, February 23rd, 2018, in conjunction with the AoT meeting on the 24th, there will be a Jambalaya supper held at the community center on the Fort Henderson site. Commander in Chief Tom Strain will be preparing the meal. Join us at this historic site where General Forrest captured over 900 Union soldiers on his move into Tennessee. Donations will be taken for the restoration of the Fort and the Museum at Elm Springs.



Site plan for the restoration of Fort Henderson
Fort layout is in bold black and orange lines

The Fort is located off of Browns Ferry Street, Athens, Al 35611. Take Hwy 72 to Hines St. Turn right onto Hines St. Follow Hines St. to Browns Ferry Street, turn right. Follow Browns Ferry until you see the sign for the Pincham-Lincoln Center on the left just before the Trinity Congregational Church. Turn left at the sign for Pincham-Lincoln Center. Google Trinity High School Athens Alabama for driving directions from your actual location.

